2-1943
News
Birmingham, Ala.

Farmers Of Alabama May Earn $50 An Acre For Extra Vegetables

FEB 5 - 1943

Administrator Jones Makes Announcement Of Incentive Payment

AUBURN, Ala.—Alabama farmers may earn $50 an acre this year by planting certain fresh vegetables for market in excess of 90 per cent of their goals, up to 110 per cent of the goal, A. W. Jones, state AAA administrator, has announced.

"This incentive payment is announced by the Department of Agriculture in order to assure as large production as possible of vegetables for fresh market," said Mr. Jones.

A goal will be established for each farm which planted three acres or more to fresh vegetables in 1942 and may be established for each farm which will or can grow three acres or more in 1943. However, a farm for which no goal is established will be presumed to have a goal of three acres if more than 2.7 acres of the vegetables are planted. Any farm may receive the incentive payment on at least one acre planted in excess of 90 per cent of the goal.

FEB 5 - 1943

Vegetables which may be planted to earn incentive payments are carrots, snap beans, lima beans, beets, tomatoes, cabbage, onions and English peas. These vegetables must be planted between Feb. 1 and Sept. 1 to qualify for payment. Acreages of vegetables will be counted only once for incentive payments even though double or triple cropping of designated vegetables is carried out.

The goal for fresh vegetables will not be a part of the total war crop goal for the farm, and the $15 an acre deduction for failure to plant 90 per cent of the war crop goal will not apply to vegetables for fresh market.

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
January 23, 1943

Prompt Measures To Combat Loss Of Hogs Is Urged In County

Prompt action to eliminate as completely as possible the loss of valuable hogs through disease was recommended Saturday by P. F. Thomas Negro county farm agent.

"Farmers are going to suffer a great loss of hogs this winter because of cholera, flu and pneumonia," he said. "The number known dead from those diseases up to now is approximately 240 head, valued at not less than $4,000."

Thomas said he had visited every community in the county and farmers are suffering loss of hogs in each. More than 500 hogs have been treated during the past two months.

"I am of the opinion that the only solution to the problem will be feeding a balanced ration, providing better housing facilities and taking better sanitation measures," he said.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro Farmers Worried

JUL 17 1943

EUTAW, Ala.—Negro farm leaders of Greene County are greatly concerned about the feed and food situation and they are urging their farmers to plant emergency food and feed crops, such as sweet potatoes, sorghum, hay crops and other feeds.

The farm leaders' June meeting was held at the courthouse and W. H. Johnson, white county agent, met with the leaders and discussed with them community organization forestry, home gardens and boll weevil control. The leaders are very enthusiastic and they believe that Negro farmers throughout Greene County will do a good job of producing both food and feed.

Negroes Ignore Urgent Call For Cotton Pickers

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
August 31, 1943

Only Seven White Boys Appear In Response To Plea For 400

In spite of the fact that only seven little white boys showed up at U. S. Employment Bureau yesterday morning in answer to an SOS call for 400 volunteer cotton pickers on Montgomery County farms, County Farm Agent Lem A. Edmonson and his aides will be on hand at 301 Church Street again this morning and trucks for transportation of volunteers will be provided, just in case some have changed their minds after having had time to think over the situation.

Agent Edmonson still had hopes last night that some negro boys and girls and women, otherwise unemployed, would show up today. Monday, he admitted was a bad day to start such a venture, and he thought that by Tuesday the urgent call to help their country at war, to help themselves and to help the farmers so desperately in need of saving a cotton crop, might sink in. The crop is 95 per cent open and the heat of the past few days is making the remaining bolls burst open like popcorn.

"Every colored minister in town made the announcement from his pulpit yesterday," Agent Edmonson said, "and it does seem that some of them would respond to his plea, especially boys and girls about to enter school who, like all school children, will need new clothes and new books."

Press and radio carried the call Sunday for 400 volunteers Monday morning to meet at the U. S. Employment Bureau, 301 Church Street, to be transported by trucks to a dozen or more farms where the cotton is nearly all open and threatened with the loss of thousands of dollars to the owners and the war effort if it is not harvested before the usual September rains set in.

That only a handful of white children between 10 and 13 years of age showed up was thought by all who knew of it as "disgraceful." The children, seven in all, were taken to the Ivey farm near Dalraida, where they put in their first day of cotton picking. Some brought their lunches, some didn't, saying they had no ration points to buy anything to make sandwiches, but Mr. Ivey reassured them by saying he'd arrange for something at the store nearby at lunch time.

About an hour after the children had been in the field, Agent Edmonson visited them at work and found them "getting along fine." The Advertiser was unable to find last night how many pounds the little volunteers picked, but it wasn't any trouble to get praise of the patriotic group of youngsters who answered the call for help. They were paid at the rate of $1 a hundred, which is the highest rate cotton picking has ever brought in Montgomery County, the agent said.

Soon after daylight yesterday, Agent Edmonson, Negro Agent G. T. Alexander, and members of the Employment Bureau and the U. S. D. A. War Board were on hand at 301 Church Street, where farmers had lined up their trucks to take the volunteer pickers to their fields. All were ready to assist in getting the workers into the cotton rows as soon as possible. Thundershowers were forecast and haste was imperative.

Though they looked long and hopefully, only the seven little boys showed up. The Employment Service Farm Replacement Supervisor. B. L. Walker, the U. S. D. A. War Board members and County Agent Edmonson and Alexander were disappointed. Alexander was hardest hit because his own people whom he counted on had failed him.

MANPOWER
Time

Seven Answered

In Montgomery County, Alabama, the cotton bolls hung heavy on the plants. If they were not picked in a hurry, September rains would ruin the crop. In New Jersey an appeal for volunteers to unload freight had brought 2,000 volunteers in 48 hours (TIME, Sept. 6). Now the Alabama planters staged their own campaign, for a modest 400 men, women & children cotton pickers.

Chicago, Illinois

Five times a day radio stations called for volunteers. Newspapers, Negro ministers and schoolteachers, white sheriffs and policemen blanketed the county with appeals. The wage offered was $1 for each 100 lb. picked, as high a rate as the region has ever known. Workers would be transported from the city of Montgomery to the fields without charge.

On the first hiring day, the planters sent down their trucks to pick up the workers. Representatives of the U.S. Employment Service and of the Agriculture Department War Board, white and colored farm agents were on hand to handle the crowd of workers. The volunteers: seven white boys, ten to 13 years old.

2-1943
Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

D.C.

U. S. To Organize 3,500,000 Into Great Land Army

JAN 26 1943

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Striving for a badly-needed increase of seven or eight per cent in food production, the government will ask some 3,500,000 persons to leave their work in towns and cities temporarily this spring and summer to help solve the farm labor shortage.

This plan to mobilize a voluntary "land army" for the planting and harvesting of record food crops for the war effort was announced jointly by Food Administrator Claude R. Wickard and Man Power Commissioner Paul V. McNutt at a press conference today.

Only Objector.

The plan follows demands from farm state members of congress that farm labor shortages be remedied. Only today Senator Pepper, Democrat, Florida, arose on the senate floor to make a sharp attack on the war man-power commission and Department of Agriculture for failure, he said, to "take hold of the farm labor problem."

JAN 26 1943

"What we need is a clear cut man power problem," Pepper declared.

Wickard said the land army program would be based on patriotic appeals to town and city dwellers not engaged in activities directly connected with the war effort to put in some time on the farm at regular farm pay—30 cents or more an hour.

Enroll Volunteers.

Principally, they will be used to harvest perishable food and vegetable crops. Wickard said their would be "perhaps a training program in conjunction with the recruitment drive."

An effort will be made to enroll "all who'll volunteer—not volunteer to work without pay, but to leave a more lucrative job to go out and save a crop to help the war effort," Wickard said, explaining it would work this way:

The enrollment will be conducted in rural areas by the Agriculture Department's extension service and in urban communities by the War Man-Power Commission's employment service.

JAN 26 1943

School Children.

Questionnaires will be sent out to such persons as store clerks to determine those able and willing to take temporary farm work and those volunteering will be solicited in personal interviews to take particular seasonal farm work.

Those taking the jobs, under tentative plans, would get 30 cents an hour, or the wage prevailing in the area where they do the farm work, whichever is higher.

Recruitment would be confined principally to the immediate area of the farms needing the workers, to avert housing and transportation problems and get quickest mobilization in emergencies.

School children would be drawn into the land army by arrangement with local educational officials to adjust school terms and vacation or holiday dates to free pupils for farm work when needed.

People's Voice
New York, N. Y.

WASHINGTON YOUTH PICKS 3,600 POUNDS OF TOMATOES IN A SINGLE DAY

SEP 13 1943

WASHINGTON—Any doubt that the 26 Negro victory farm volunteers really meant business when they boarded a bus a couple of weeks ago and headed for Dorchester [illegible], Md., to help harvest a 15,000-acre wartime tomato crop was completely blasted last Tuesday when one of the youngsters, William Hill, picked 103 baskets of tomatoes, or nearly 3,600 pounds.

The Maryland farmers had expected each of the boys to harvest on an average of 50 baskets a day; but most of the boys have exceeded this figure and this 15-year-old boy more than doubled it.

So pleased are the farmers with the work of these boys that another group was recruited last week and now more than 50 local boys are enlisted in the VF[illegible] helping to save vital war crops. Latest figures show that about 150,000 youths, white and Negro, are enrolled in the volunteers, helping to harvest war crops in various areas where labor shortages exist.

2-1943

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

FLORIDA NEEDS FARM WORKERS FOR VITAL CROPS

JAN 8 1943

Government Ready to Guarantee All Who Take Jobs Good Wages And Fair Play

Florida, Arizona, Texas and California produce vegetables and fruits which are of vital importance to our way of life. Heretofore workers have gone to these states by various ways of transportation, harvesting crops and moving on the next crop by those transportation methods. Today with the rationing of gasoline and the limited amount of utilities available for transportation, ordinary methods of transportation are made very difficult. All food products are of vital importance to our armies and navies and to our allies. They must be harvested, processed, and shipped around the world. The demand for food is enormous. Not only must we plant and harvest our normal supply; we must produce, harvest, process, and store much more food than in the past of all discriptions.

In order to do this the U. S. Government has agreed to transfer workers to Florida and other states to produce and harvest a maximum amount of citrus fruit and vegetables. This is work very essential to the winning of this war, and it is the patriotic duty of every worker who is not employed to participate in this work.

JAN 8 1943

If a worker is willing to do his part and willing to work hard, the government guarantees to workers without charge living quarters while working, as well as to pay transportation costs to work and return, including meals while traveling. A minimum standard of housing, a minimum wage of thirty cents per hour and pay for 75 percent of working days, not including Sundays, while on the job are guaranteed. No worker who is willing to work should be afraid of these opportunities because the Federal Government has made arrangements which will guarantee that a worker can't lose. Information in more detail is available at United States Employment Service Office, 2nd and Union Streets, Nashville, Tenn., as well as other job opportunities.

FLORIDA

Florida Labor Problem Helps Boost Vegetable Costs

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

By Sigrid Arne

Belle Glade, Florida (AP).

THE Government is importing farm labor down here; 5,000 hands from the Bahama Islands to work in Florida's vegetable and cane fields.

Behind this move is a screwy labor situation: The more the field hands are paid, they less they work. The growers, frantic to harvest their crops, bid up the wages but that only adds to the dizzy whirl for, when the hand makes more per day, he merely works fewer days.

The trouble lies in the size of Florida's farms. And in the type of labor.

The usual farm is 1,000 to 2,000 acres. They lie in the heart of the old Everglades which have been drained; land so rich and black that beans can be harvested just 45 days after the seed has been put in the ground; fields so huge that you could follow one green bean row straight into the sunset.

APR 5 1943

MUCH farm work is done with the most modern farm machinery. But no machine yet has come along to pick the delicate tomato from the vine, or the bean from the bush. Each has to be picked separately.

So when the harvesting season comes, the grower suddenly needs huge gangs of field hands. He gets them from the droves of migratory labor which flow into Florida each winter—25,000 of them—mostly Negroes.

APR 5 1943

From day to day the grower never knows whether his heavy crops will be picked. He gets his day's crew each dawn. He is never sure how many he'll have.

There has been one crisis: when the mid-winter bean crop was picked. The "first picking" came off all right. But the second and third pickings, for the most part, rotted in the fields—with the whole world needing food, and prices skyrocketing in the northern markets. Why? Because it's harder to pick the second and third crops. And somehow the growers could find field hands for the first picking, but they couldn't find them for the second and third.

There is a second crisis just starting. The spring bean crop must be picked between April 1 and May 15. There's 30,000 acres to be picked, the biggest planting on record.

So far many months Florida growers have been clamoring for more labor. They wanted Bahama Negroes, particularly, because the Bahamans have a reputation for putting in a full work week.

The problem with the American field hand is a sort of ephemeral one. Even the growers, annoyed as they are, chuckle about it.

They agree that the field workers seem to work well until they've earned between $15 and $20, then they lay off, presumably until the money is gone. And there's no authority that can legally force them back to work. As long as they're happy with so little: a roof (often leaky), some greens and sow belly, and perhaps a bottle of liquor for Saturday night at a "juke joint."

The whites—growers and officials—can get high blood pressure over it, but so far they've thought of no solution.

There are exceptions. Most of the growers have some reliable people they employ the year round, and house in quarters, who work six days a week.

APR 5 19

AND AT the F.S.A. headquarters, I ran through the work records for people living at one of the migratory comps: park-like places with neat little one-room cottages, a laundry house, a school, a church. The majority of those workers had done five and six days a week, even on the crops that pay lower wages.

F.S.A.'s Paul Vander Schouw told me he thinks the clean living at the camps is having its effect. He said most of the field hands had to be taught how to use the property when they moved in. But now they're sending their children to school more regularly. And the men work the long weeks.

APR 5 1943

The rest of the migratory labor lives either in quarters furnished by the growers, or in town "quarters" where they pay rent for rooms in ramshackle, unrepaired buildings.

APR 5 1943

I drove through the Belle Glade "quarters." They make Dubose Heyward's "Cat Fish Row" look palatial. It was easy to understand why the field hands won't work even when they can earn plenty of money. They've lived so meagerly for so long that they don't have the usual need for money. They think of it mostly as a chance to buy lazy hours sitting in the sun. Several growers agreed with me on that.

At Belle Glade the draft board is going to try to force longer work weeks. Luther Jones, a draft board official, a grower, and a publisher, told me he's organizing all growers to report any field hands for absenteeism. Those who have been deferred from the draft will be reclassified. But Jones has little hope for the plan. He says among the field hands here some 80 per cent have already been passed over for some physical defect.

APR 5 1943

The silent battle comes to a head each day at dawn—in one of the most curious scenes in the country.

That's when the growers send out for their day's field crew. They dispatch trucks to the Negro quarters and the migratory camps. On each truck is a hawker who shouts the advantages of his plantation. At Belle Glade, in the peak season, 5,000 field hands sit silently listening to this clamor for their services.

The first hawker will start offering, "Thirty-five cents here. Thirty-five cents to pick a hamper of beans. Cold water at the end of each row. Fresh beans, easy to pick, full bushes."

The 5,000 sit like wooden figures. They scarcely look at the hawker. So another hawker bids 40 cents. In the dim-light, the 5,000 still sit silent and wooden.

The price goes up to 45 cents a hamper, to 50 cents. There the first break comes and some of the trucks fill up with hands—men, women and children—and roll off.

The shouting becomes a clamor. The price goes to 65 cents, 60, 65—up to 75 cents on the tight days. At each bid field hands pick a truck and climb aboard. The trucks roll off to the various plantations through the dawn.

APR 5 1943

And it's a curious thing: they roll off at sunrise, but picking doesn't start until 10 a.m.—after the dew has dried. The field hands wait beside the bean fields, or catch a little extra sleep. Why? The growers are so afraid the other growers will get all that day's labor that they start the bidding at the crack of dawn.

At 2 p.m. some labor begins to quit the fields. They cash in their hamper slips, get their cash, and start back to town.

It takes a gambler to farm in Florida. And there are plenty of them—left over from the wild days of the Florida land boom, getting back those blue chips they lost in the '20's.

APR 5 1943

That is, if they'll gamble. I talked to one man who was chuckling over his own bad judgment. He'd lost in the land boom. So now he's being conservative. He turned down a friend this winter who wanted to sell him a half share in a cabbage crop for $1,200. The crop was harvested. It paid

porter who, in saying that the D.A.R.'s
d decided at their meeting to co-operate

2-1943

GENERAL

Watkins Reviews 1942

Sumter S.C. Daily Item

Agriculture Wore War Harness The Past Year

Jan. 5, 1943

Editor's note: The following story was written for the Associated Press by Director D. W. Watkins of the Clemson Extension service.

By D. W. WATKINS

Clemson, Jan. 5—(AP)—Agriculture has been wearing a war harness during 1942.

Farmers have done things and put up with conditions that they would not think of during peace times.

They have seen needed supplies and materials going into use in wartime industries at a time when the price situation might permit more profit than at any time since 1919. Most of the intervening years have been unprofitable for the majority of farmers.

Sumter S.C. Daily Item Jan. 5, 1943

They have seen labor drawn away from the farm by industrial wages, which, if applied to the hard work and long hours on the farm, would seem fantastic.

They have seen big national plans which in some detail, though extremely important to the individual farmer were nevertheless handled in an arbitrary way and continued too long because the authorities high enough up were too busy with more important things. An example is the two-price system for peanuts which has prevailed in 1942, which could not be changed without congressional action and congress was too busy with something else. Jan 5 43

They have seen nitrogen fertilizer diverted largely to necessary munitions and into storage for possible use in making munitions with the remainder portioned through a clumsy and inadequate system.

Sumter S.C. Daily Item

They have seen wage rates in the wartime mushroom industries mount up to high levels and have experienced criticism from non-farm interests on the basis of their leaders trying to keep the prices of farm crops in reasonable pace with the rising costs of purchased articles.

In spite of all this, farmers have recognized that a certain amount of friction and lack of complete and smooth understanding is one of the features of a war and is bound to occur in one way or another in any war. While they do very properly resent criticisms which assume that because the consumers are paying high prices the farmers are profiteering and similar criticisms by other more or less irresponsible people, they nevertheless are influenced by as sound patriotism as will be found

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

NEGRO FARMERS ARE PRAISED BY SEC'Y WICKARD

Daily World

Agriculture Head Says They Have Played Big Part

Jan. 21, 1943

WASHINGTON. D.C. --(SNS)--Urging the all-out mobilization of the Nation's 6,000,000 farmers to meet the increased wartime demands for food and fiber, Secretary of Agriculture Claud R. Wickard said this week that the job calls upon all of us small farmers as well as large farmers, colored farmers as well as white farmers, women and youths as well as men to make every hour count for more in farm production. Atlanta, Ga.

Referring to the 680,000 Negro Americans on the farm, Secretary Wickard said that they had played an important role in the 1942 agricultural production record. Jan. 21, 1943

Continuing, he said, "However, the job will be more difficult this year because of the shortage in farm production facilities. And as soldiers of the soil they will need increased courage and perseverance. The example in perseverance set by the late Dr. George Washington Carver, who contributed so much to agricultural research, should be an inspiration to them and to other farmers as well."

Following Farm Mobilization Day, highlighted by an all network broadcast on which Secretary Wickard spoke, and on which a message from President Roosevelt was read by James F. Brynes, director of Economic Stabilization, the Nation's farmers, colored and white alike, began enlisting their farms in the 1943 Food-for-Freedom drive Between now and January 30 it is expected that almost all of the farmers will sign up with the Agricultural Adjustment Agency committeemen who will be calling on them with the 1943 farm plan sheets. Atlanta, Ga.

While the farmers set an all time record in production last year, the 1943 goals call for even more of certain crops to meet the need of our enlarged fighting force our own civilian population, our allies and the half starved peoples whom we are liberating from Axis aggressors. Daily World

Among the products for which sharp increases are required are cattle and calves for slaughter, 30,400,000; hogs for slaughter, 100 Million 122 bil ion pounds of milk; nearly 50 billion eggs, and 3,712, 000,000 pounds of pea nuts. Jan. 21, 1943

Last year thousands of Negro farmer increased their poultry flocks, enlarged their home gardens, and added a few pigs and a milk cow or two There are indications that many more will either start a new garden, and begin raising chickens and pigs for home use this year, or will enlarge their present live-at-home program.

While many Negro farmers have only sufficient facilities to grow food for home consumption, thousand are producing extra pigs, chickens, eggs, and milk which find their way to the cities, to military contonments and to our allies.

As for the farmers who do not have adequate facilities either for growing their own food, or for producing food for our armed forces, the Department has taken steps to provide credit for them. Through Farm Credit Admininstration, or Farm Security Administration farmers may obtain loans to buy seed, fertilizer, spray materials, fencing livestock, poultry, machinery and other aids to increase production.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York. N. Y.

Negroes Farm 11,198,893 Acres in U. S.

Race's U. S. Holdings Valued at $1,402,945,790

JAN 23 1943

WASHINGTON, (ANP). — The most important group of Negroes in the United States is the agricultural group, say experts. Owning a total acreage of 11,198,893, this is enough land to form a strip three miles wide stretching across the country from Boston to San Francisco!

However, the census figures of 1930 showed a decrease over those of 1920. With no figures available for the 1940 comparison it is interesting to note some of the figures of a decade ago.

There were 882,850 farm operators, or 14 per cent of the total in the United States. There were Negro farmers in all states and in two-thirds of the counties in the entire United States.

The average acreage for the Negro farm was 42.6 acres. The value of the land and buildings was assessed at $1,402,945,790. The average farm was valued at $1,589 and the total value of farm products in the South was $646,641,216.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Says Untapped Negro Farm Manpower Can Up Food Supply

FEB 5 1943

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—Claude A. Barnett, director of the Associated Negro Press and special assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, declared in a statement on food production this week that the 670,000 Negro farmers in the South can probably increase their food output more than any other group in the agricultural industry.

Pointing out that food is taking its place in the war along side troops, planes, tanks, and irmament, Mr. Barnett said that Negro farmers could add a sizeable quantity of food to our stockpiles if they were further aided by the Government.

FEB 5 1943

"Negro farmers." he said, "own more than 10 million acres of farm land and operate an acreage in excess of 30 million. The machinery on their farms and on the farms they tenant and sharecrop is valued at well over $40,000,000. With these resources, Negro farmers have been producing more than one-fourth of the Nation's cotton and a large part of its tobacco, potatoes and peanuts, and yet, despite these production figures, Negro farm manpower is not being adequately used in the war effort.

"There are several things which these farmers need in order to convert to a full wartime footing," said Mr. Barnett. "First there is the need for seed, baby chicks, a brood sow, a heifer or a milk cow, and the need for shifting farm families from unproductive, submarginal land to soil whose yield will be commensurate with the effort put forth by the operator. Finally, additional supervision is also needed."

FEB 5 1943

Going further Mr. Barnett said, "The present Extension Service staff of 573 Negro farm and home agents is doing an admirable job. However, there are thousands of Negro farmers who are not reached. Increasing the staff to 1,000 workers would be a step toward assuring maximum use of under-employed farm manpower. If such additions can be made to the staff, and if Negro farmers are given an integral part in the food production drive, the South will make a tremendous showing in growing food to meet our urgent wartime needs.

"Secretary Wickard has pointed out that the American Army is the best fed army in the world. We must keep it so. But it is not our soldiers alone for whom we must provide food. We must also provide food for the countries of Europe whom Germany has raided and stripped in order to feed her own armies and people. These are some of the reasons we Americans must forego some of the foods we have always enjoyed in abundance

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Colored Farmers Raise 30 Million Chickens

OCT 9 1943

Colored farmers, comprising nearly a fourth of the farm operators in the South, are playing an increasing important role in helping Southern farmers meet their share of the chicken goal. It is estimated that colored farmers will raise 30 million chickens this year.

The War Food Administration anticipates a wider use of chicken during the early fall, since a large part of the early supply of turkeys is being shipped abroad to our armed forces for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner.

Untapped Farm Workers Can Up Food Production

Pittsburgh Courier
FEB 13 1943

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 11—Claude A. Barnett, director of the Associated Negro Press and special assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, declared in a statement on food production this week that the 670,000 Negro farmers in the South can probably increase their food output more than any other group in the agricultural industry.

Pointing out that food is taking its place in the war along side troops, planes, tanks and armament, Mr. Barnett said that Negro farmers could add a sizeable quantity of food to our stockpiles if they were further aided by the Government.

FEB 13 1943

CITES NEEDS

"Negro farmers," he said, "own more than 10 million acres of farm land and operate an acreage in excess of 30 million. The machinery on their own farms and on the farms they tenant and sharecrop is valued at well over $40,000,000. With these resources, Negro farmers have been producing nearly one-fourth of the Nation's cotton and a large part of its tobacco, potatoes and peanuts, and yet, despite these production figures, Negro farm manpower is not being adequately used in the war effort.

"There are several things which these farmers need in order to convert to a full wartime footing," said Mr. Barnett. "First there is the need for seed, baby chicks, a brood sow, a heifer or a milk cow, and the need for shifting farm families from unproductive, submarginal land to soil whose yield will be commensurate with the effort put forth by the operator. Finally, additional supervision is also needed."

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

WE'RE IMPORTANT

ONE OUT OF EVERY NINE farms in the United States is operated by a Negro. And 49 out of every 50 Negro farms are located in the South. Here is how important Negro farmers are to the South and to the entire nation. Negroes operate one fourth of all farms in the South and supply half of the farm labor.

JUL 24 1943

"Negro farmers alone, if they meet their goals, will produce enough eggs this year to serve 11 million soldiers and sailors and fliers an egg for breakfast every morning from now until next November. They will produce enough milk to meet the milk requirements of 11 million fighters for the next six months."

The above is a direct quotation from a speech by M. Clifford Townsend, special representative of the War Food Administration, made on July 4 in Chicago.

JUL 24 1943

We recommend this information for close study to the "brass hats" who refuse to credit the Negro with any importance in the war effort.

Negro Farmers Do Their Bit

Reformer
Tuskegee, Ala.

A few weeks ago when there was some uncertainty as to how well the Nation's farmers were measuring up to the wartime agricultural goals for this year, Albon L. Holsey, field officer of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency; and T. M. Campbell, federal extension field agent, thought they would get out of their offices and take a look. Working for different agencies, the men naturally planned their trips independently. But it so happened, however, that both of them covered a good part of the same areas. It was check and double check. They found Negro farmers all-out.

JUL 3 1943

In Texas

In Texas, Holsey found that the Negro farmers in and around Huntsville had formed a Victory Council through which they had leased storage space at the ice house for their 52,000 pounds of cured meat; they had taken over the NYA shop and were using it to repair and rebuild farm machinery. Members of the council had rebuilt baybalers.

Poultry Raisers

Then, there was Jesse Baker who had switched over from cotton to cattle, pigs and poultry and was doing a grand job. There were 1500 chickens on the yard. Still more spectacular from a standpoint of poultry was John Nebane. He had a backyard flock of 2,000 and had already sold 6,000 broilers and fryers. And this was only his part time job at night he did custodian chores.

In Oklahoma

In Oklahoma, Holsey met Farmer Albert Lee, who had purchased a thousand dollar war bond with money obtained from the sale of eggs. His 270 White Leghorns were laying at the rate of 15 dozens a day.

Campbell also visited Texas and Louisiana. In the latter state he met the Jenkins family, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Jenkins and their two sons—a family that had started from scratch 18 years ago. Today they own an 80-acre farm, a comfortable home, and are making a substantial contribution to the winning of the war. They are milking nine cows and have three heifers that will freshen next spring; they are getting 20 eggs daily for market, have 100 layers and nearly 300 pullets on the yard. By next year, the Jenkins family expects to have a flock of 250 layers. They are also raising eight acres of peanuts to help make up for that the Japs got and they have an orchard and a Victory Garden.

JUL 31 1943

In Georgia

In Georgia, Campbell visited T. P. Patterson, a tenant farmer of Jenkins county who is a leader in meat production. First Patterson showed Campbell his milk cows, his chickens, and his pigs; then he walked into his smokehouse and strode out with an 10-pound ham on his shoulder . . . This wasn't all: for the next few minutes he hauled the wares from his smokehouse and exhibited them on a long trailer-bed. There were more than a dozen hams, and several shoulders and sides. When asked about his red stamps, Farmer Patterson was puzzled for a moment, then he replied with a grin, "Oh, you mean the ration stamps—we don't use them."

JUL 31 1943

The trips were eye-openers for Campbell and Hosley. Both of them returned to their offices at Tuskegee beaming with pride.

2-1943 General

FOOD AND THE HOME FRONT

St. George, S. C., Eagle-Record
August 26, 1943

Today, truly the fields are white unto harvest.

But so few people are in the fields, while many white and colored people are to be seen on the streets and on the roads.

A cotton picking sack may not be so comfortable as a fishing cane or a steering wheel; but it is more patriotic and far wiser.

Had you thought that the lard and butter (margarine) that you sometimes cannot buy, comes from cotton seed; that the meal from these same seed furnishes feed for cows hogs and poultry; that the growing and harvesting of these feeds are fully as important as planes, tanks, ships and ammunition; and that these other articles with which we fight may wait a few days, but every day's delay in picking cotton results in a loss?

The crop is made. You are needed in the fields—not next week or next day, but today —NOW. Don't fool yourself to think George will do it. It is not being done, and if this crop is not harvested promptly the farmer will not plant cotton next year, and the vital oil and protein it would have produced will be lost. If it is not planted don't blame the farmer, but rather yourself.

Perhaps you think you and your children are too good to pick cotton; that it is more honorable to handle a typewriter than to finger cotton burs. Is that the real reason, or is it laziness?

Two colored women were cleaning up a yard in St. George recently. Was there any reason why the lady of the house could not have done that and allowed the others to go to the field, or that the job wait and all three go to the field, or that a day could have been selected when cotton was too wet?

Do you realize that guns may win the war and food—American food—the peace; and that with much farm labor gone you can help grow the crop and gather the food?

Perhaps you can devote only one day a week, or a half day on the farm, but if that is all you can spare, that is your task.

American boys gave their last breath at Bataan, at Guadalcanal, at a thousand other spots on land, in the air, and on the sea to win the war. Can you give less than a little time during this harvest season to produce the food with which to win the peace?

Will Rogers once said, "What America needs is dirtier fingernails and cleaner minds." Perhaps he should have said clearer minds so that we could properly think out and evaluate.

Recently I was appealing to a negro to get his people to stay in the fields. He pointed out a white man with a wife, a boy and a girl, none of whom will work in the field. Answered me, "Cap'n, look lack a heap of dese white folks could get in de field also."

What would your answer have been? Personally, I could not reply.

VICTORY FARM VOLUNTEERS TO RESCUE CROP

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

AUG 21 1943

Twenty-six Washington, D. C., high school boys enlisted in the Victory Farm Volunteers last week and [illegible] for Cambridge, Md., to help save a 10,000-acre tomato crop. Extension Service officials estimate that the boys will harvest 12 tons of tomatoes daily. Looking on is Roscoe G. Robinson, teacher at Phelps Vocational school, who will supervise the camp. Extreme right: The Victory Volunteers line up to board the bus with bags, food and cooking utensils. USDA photo by Ackerman.

Volunteer To Save War Crops

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
AUG 21 1943

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19 — Boys and girls, colored and white, throughout the nation are enlisting in the Victory Farm Volunteers to help harvest vital war crops, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced this week.

Farm reports received by the department show that nearly 150,000 youths have already enrolled, and by early September, the number is expected to approach half a million.

Extension Service officials, who are assisting in the recruitment, placement, and supervision of the Victory Farm Volunteers, point out that they are helping to answer the farmers' prayers. Until these youths began volunteering, many farmers were fearful that their crops would rot in the fields due to the farm labor shortage. For the boys and girls, it is not only an excellent summer outing, but also an opportunity to help win the war. Reports indicate they are all enthusiastic.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Secretary Wickard Praises Effort Of Negro Farmers.

TUSKEGEE — (SNS) —. Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard addressed a south-wide Negro farm leaders' conference Wednesday and said that trained Negro leadership has been rendering invaluable service to the wartime food production program.

Secretary Wickard said Negroes are tilling 30,000,000 acres of farm land having a value of $836,000,000. He lauded efforts of the leaders conference which was started 52 years ago by Dr. Booker T. Washington, said the secretary:

"The conference has been instrumental in spreading the doctrine of self help among Negro farmers, and in promoting better living conditions.

When the conference began, it was doing the main job of education among colored farmers all by itself. During the intervening years, many new agencies — including the land-grant colleges, the extension service, private institutions having agricultural departments, and various federal agencies—have been instituted to amplify the practical objectives of the conference.

"This has resulted," Wickard said, "in a marked advance in farming knowledge relating to crop diversification, soil improvement, and conservation, land-use planning, livestock development, and closer co-operation among farmers themselves in coping with their mutual problems."

Journal
Savannah, Ga.

Negro Farm Families Doing Their Bit

By W. A. Hagins

Industrial College, Ga., Aug 31 —Georgia Negro farm families are fully behind the nation's war effort, both in spirit and practice, P. H. Stone, Negro State Agent for the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service, said today.

After Pearl Harbor, farm folks were told that food would prove a decisive factor in the world conflict, later that food would win the war and write the peace and finally that food was ammunition. A rapid integration of sons into the armed service gave specific meaning to these food slogans and brought about greater co-ordination of farm activities.

Prompted by these and other war-time preparations, hundreds of farm families have handled increased production assignments despite their normal labor cut in half. Community leaders report generally of families planting gardens, brooding out chicks, building pig pens and canning fruits and vegetables for the first time. Pantries with from three to five hundred containers of canned and preserved foods are common, with the season not yet over.

"On analysis, this remarkable response is not a phenomena to be explained in terms of war hysteria, but rather the reaction which one would expect in a crisis from people who have had some preliminary training and preparation," Stone said. He particularly pointed out that the Extension Service and other agencies have talked and explained a live-at-home economy for years and this crisis found us with an educational structure, public attitudes, terminology and methods ready to go. With the placing of special emphasis on larger gardens and the rebuilding and building soil fertility, war food

(Continued.)

"During times of this kind the needs and war demands dig at the foundation of normal living, thus find a heightened food and feed opinion of garden-farm relationship and a slightly better soil for maximum production, the farm leader when national safety is imper-

ing, it's hard to believe that the practical lessons of thrift and conservation being learned now will be forgotten entirely when the war is over. The independence and faith developed now through [illegible] able to do more with less should have much carry-over value and a return to farming of families who left a few years ago in search of high industrial wages, State Agent P. T. Stone, declared.

Negro Farmers And Farm Workers Harvest Important Crops For War Productio

Age
New York, N. Y.

Peanuts for oil, fruits, vegetables, and grain for the nation's food basket, hay and other feed for livestock and poultry production, and cotton for gun powder, parachute cords, uniforms, and [illegible] are among the important war crops that Negro [illegible] and farm laborers are harvesting this year. A good many of the younger men have gone off to war, but the older men, the women, and the children have stepped into their places to keep farm production going. They are soldiers of the soil, everyone fighting on one of America's vital fronts.

Top, left to right: a Negro farmer in Georgia, stacks his peanut crop; in Maryland, a Women's Land Army worker drives a tractor, helping with the harvest of hay and grain; in Alabama an older man shakes [illegible] peanuts; while in Mississippi a still older man helps with the bagging of peanuts for shipment. Bottom, left to right: a woman and even a small boy help with the harvesting of carrots in Florida; in Maryland, a 'teen age girl picks tomatoes; in Mississippi it's a smile of pride on this worker's face—knowing that Uncle Sam needs high-grade cotton for the manufacture of important war goods, he picks swiftly, but carefully, as this [illegible] shows; in Florida [illegible] farm worker fills crates with peppers; in South Carolina, it's snap beans that this youth has picked.

—USDA Agricultural

On The Agricultural Front

-Norfolk, Virginia— Journal and Guide

FARM WORKERS ARE NOT FROZEN

In a letter to Dr. W. H. Jernagin, chairman of the executive board of the Fraternal Council of Negro Churches in America, Meredith C. Wilson, in charge of extension farm labor program, made it clear that Public Law 45 in no way restricts the movement of farm workers. Mr. Wilson's letter was in reply to one from Dr. Jernagin requesting a clarification of the law.

Said Mr. Wilson: "As passed, Public Law 45 places no limitations upon the movement of individual farm workers under their own resources or with the assistance of employer-farmers or other individuals.

"The only prohibition is upon the use of funds provided in the Farm Labor Supply Act for the payment of transportation without the written consent of the County Agent."

That is to say, if a worker has his own money or if he can borrow the money, he is free to move from one county to another or from one state to another. However, he cannot be moved from one county to another at the expense of the Government without the consent of the County Agent.

ALL MUST HELP

Mr. Wilson said further in his letter to Dr. Jernagin: "It is important in time of stress that every individual lend a hand. Not only should all available labor engage fully in food production work, but employers should release workers not needed for short periods in order that they may work on other farms short of labor.

"Our Negro Extension agents, with the aid of volunteer local leaders (many of whom are ministers), are attempting to facilitate the full use of Negro farm labor available in each county."

AUG 14 1943

NEED MORE FARM WORKERS

The War Food Administration reports that although nearly half a million U. S. Crop Corps workers were recruited and placed between April 29 and June 30, recruitment and placement must be intensified in order to meet the demand for workers during the peak harvesting season immediately ahead.

AUG 14 1943

Employment on farms on July 1 was at a record low for that date and wage rates were at a new high the Department's Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. It is estimated that 11,749,000 persons were employed on farms on July 1.

This was 260,000 less than the number employed on the same date a year ago. However, wage rates were 36 percent above what they were a year ago.

AUG 14 1943

In the South wage rates ranged from $1.50 a day in South Carolina to $3 in Texas, $3.50 in Oklahoma, $3.75 in Maryland, and $4 in Delaware. Nevertheless, there were 120,000 fewer workers on southern farms than on July 1, 1942.

Mt. Vernon, Ga., Monig'ry Monitor
December 31, 1942

Colored Citizen Makes Fine Farm Record

Mack Wiggins, a forty-four year old colored farmer of the Uvalda section of Montgomery county, moved on a farm in 1941, purchased with a loan secured from the Farm Security Administration under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. Under this act, a progressive non-landowner is able to buy a farm and is given forty years to pay for it at three per cent interest.

In the fall of 1941 he paid his annual payment on this loan when it came due. On December 28, 1942, Mack walked into the Farm Security office and proudly handed W. V. Waters, Jr., FSA Supervisor, $100.00 in cash to be paid on his Tenant Purchase loan. Mack said that he was going to try to do this same thing each year so that he can pay off this loan in five or six years instead of forty years.

Nine hundred of the $1000.00 paid by Mack was from the sale of cotton and the other $100.00 was from the sale of turpentine.

Mack is not by himself in paying ahead on his loan. Mr. William M. Davis paid $297.00 from timber and $385.00 from crops on his loan this year which amounted to more than three yearly payments, and in 1941, the year he purchased the farm, he also made three payments.

James A. Foskey moved on his Tenant Purchase farm in 1940 and made three yearly payments that fall; in 1941 he made two payments, and in 1942 he made one payment of $207.00 on his land but in addition he paid $337.00 on his operating loan.

Rufus L. Foskey bought his Tenant Purchase farm in 1941 and has made two payments each year totaling $820.00.

These four were among the eighteen farmers of Montgomery County who received the FSA Merit Award Certificates for their effort in the Food for Freedom program.

It is also pointed out that all forty-five of the farmers received Tenant Purchase loans in this unit, consisting of Montgomery, Wheeler, and Treutlen Counties, will meet current payments in 1942.

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
January 29, 1943

What Farmers Are Doing To Aid The War Food Program

MONTEZUMA, Ga., Jan. 28—Atlanta defense workers will have fresh English peas in the early spring, according to plans of 100 Negro farm families residing on FSA farmsteads in Macon county, near Montezuma. Each family is now preparing one-half acre of English peas, to be grown and forwarded to the Atlanta markets this spring.

Columbus, Ga., Enquirer-Sun
September 18, 1943

Troup's Negro Students Help Gather Crops

LAGRANGE, Ga., Sept. 16—(Special) — Students from the freshman class of the Depat street high school and the McGregor street school, two of LaGrange's colored schools, are aiding Troup county farmers in the war effort by assisting in the gathering of the cotton crop.

Farmers are providing ways for the students to ride trucks and busses to the farms, and teachers and principals are assisting in supervising and weighing the picked cotton. Williamson, colored county agent for Troup county was instrumental in engineering the project.

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
October 5, 1943

Athens Negro Pupils Set Cotton Picking Record

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

ATHENS, Ga., Oct. 4.—Various groups of local school children are helping Clarke county farmers pick cotton and harvest other crops needing attention, but it remained for a group of 114 Negro students to hang up the picking record.

This group, from Athens High and Industrial school, picked a total of 3,245 pounds of cotton in a day—or more than six bales.

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
September 30, 1943

Boys from Hoke Smith school, under the direction of Roy Martin, a faculty member, have added their efforts to other volunteers helping farmers by volunteering to pick cotton. They spent yesterday at a farm near Alpharetta. Also helping out in the farm labor crisis were 30 Negro boys from David T. Howard school, under the direction of William Banks, on a farm near Fairburn.

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
September 8, 1943

61 Negro Baptists Pick 4,097 Pounds Of Cotton in Day

ATLANTA, Sept. 3—(AP)—Sixty-one Negroes of the Bethlehem Baptist church and community center, picked 4,097 pounds of cotton Thursday on a Fayette county farm, Candler C. Miller, Fayette county agricultural agent, said today.

The Negroes were led by their pastor, the Rev. W. M. Jackson. The county agent said it was the "best record of all the volunteer pickers."

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
September 7, 1943

In South Georgia

FROM TWO COUNTIES of South Georgia, Worth and Coffee, come encouraging reports to those who may be troubling themselves in speculation about future race relations.

From the *Sylvester Local* we summarize the facts of an article telling of the co-operative efforts that have been made to meet the emergency conditions of the harvest time in Worth County.

On August 3, well in time for effective organization, the county agent, Mr. Daniel, called in the Negro leaders of Sylvester and asked them to work out a program to help the farmers gather the largest peanut crop and one of the largest cotton crops in the history of the county. Those leaders in turn called a meeting of the Negroes of Sylvester —housewives, soldiers' wives, high school boys and girls, young men and old who had given up farm work years ago in favor of employment in town.

The volunteers for peanut gathering and cotton picking numbered 382 from the city limits of Sylvester. Some have worked full time, some part time. The Spanish peanut crop was gathered and stacked. Only 27 acres out of many thousands was lost for lack of labor. Now the cotton is being picked, after which will come the gathering of runner peanuts. Louis L. Duncan, the agricultural agent for the colored, says in his report to the *Local*:

'Sylvester colored citizens want the farmers to know they are 100 per cent for them, and that they are going to do their utmost to save every crop in Worth County. . . . We want to thank the white and colored farmers for their complete co-operation in handling the labor. . . . When the final curtain falls on the harvesting season that is so important to the war effort, we can say, "A job well done."

What happened in Coffee County was similar. Under the leadership of three Negroes of Douglas, M. Brown, a blacksmith; W. A. Kimbrough, principal of a school; and D. E. Coney, an insurance agent, the "Colored Victory Volunteers" were organized and 235 went out daily for farm work last week. "They rendered outstanding service." the *Coffee County Progress* says, "and will continue their efforts as long as the emergency lasts."

There will be no race problem in the South where the leaders, white and colored, meet on a basis of mutual understanding, mutual respect, and mutual help. An economic emergency in Worth and Coffee Counties seems to be establishing the fact of mutual dependence in matters for the common good.

Bystander

Des Moines, Iowa

WAR TEACHES WHITES HOW THEY DEPEND ON NEGROES

Newnan, Ga. (ANP)—White southerners under the leadership of war are learning more clearly than ever before how much they depend on colored folk to do all the dirty, back-breaking work, while they have relaxed under a shade tree sipping mint juleps.

This was brought home forcibly Wednesday when a call was sent out by Coweta county farmers begging city folk to rush to the fields in an effort to save the bumper crop of cotton. Though all the stores were closed to permit workers to go to the fields, less than 150 of the white city folk showed up.

Booker T. Barber, one of two remaining Negro field hands on the 400-acre farm of John Meriweather, near Newnan, sceptically watching some 20 city white folk attempting to pick cotton, shook his head and commented.

SEP 17 1943

SEP 16 1943

SEP 16 1943

WHITE SOUTHERNERS LEARN IN WAR

HOW MUCH THEY LEAN ON NEGROES

Globe and Independent Nashville, Tenn.

Call For Cotton Pickers To Save Crop, Brings Supply Of Colored Folk For Work Too Hard For Whites Of City

NEWNAN, Ga., Sept. 16—depend on colored folk to do (ANP) White southerners un- all the dirty, back- der the exigencies of war are breaking work while they learning more clearly than have relaxed under a shade ever before how much they tree sipping mint juleps.

This was brought home forcibly when a call was sent out by Coweta county farmers begging city folk to rush to the fields in an effort to save the bumper crop of cotton. Though all the stores were closed to permit workers to go to the fields, less than 150 of the white city folk showed up.

Booker T. Barber, one of two remaining Negro field hands on the 400-acre farm of John Meriweather, near Newnan, skeptically watching some 20 city white folk attempting to pick cotton, shook his head and commented:

"White folk gonna pick cotton. They ain't used to doing anything that makes their back hurt. Truth is, I reckon it hurts

2-1943

GEORGIA

Mt. Vernon, Ga. Monitor
December 31, 1942

Colored Citizen Makes Fine Farm Record

Mack Wiggins, a forty-four year old colored farmer of the Uvalda section of Montgomery county, moved on a farm in 1941, purchased with a loan secured from the Farm Security Administration under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. Under this act, a progressive non-landowner is able to buy a farm and is given forty years to pay for it at three per cent interest.

In the fall of 1941 he paid his annual payment on this loan when it came due. On December 28, 1942, Mack walked into the Farm Security office and proudly handed W. V. Waters, Jr., FSA Supervisor, $100.00 in cash to be paid on his Tenant Purchase loan. Mack said that he was going to try to do this same thing each year so that he can pay off this loan in five or six years instead of forty years.

Mack is not by himself in paying ahead on his loan. Mr. William M. Davis paid $297.00 from timber and $385.00 from crops on his loan this year which amounted to more than three yearly payments, and in 1941, the year he purchased the farm, he also made three payments.

James A. Foskey moved on his Tenant Purchase farm in 1940 and made three yearly payments that fall; in 1941 he made two payments, and in 1942 he made one payment of $207.00 on his land but in addition he paid $337.00 on his operating loan.

Rufus L. Foskey bought his Tenant Purchase farm in 1941 and has made two payments each year totaling $820.00.

These four were among the eighteen farmers of Montgomery County who received the FSA Merit Award and proudly handed Certificates for their effort in the Food for Freedom program.

It is also pointed out that all forty-five of the farmers received Tenant Purchase loans in this unit, consisting of Montgomery, Wheeler, and Treutlen Counties, will meet current payments in 1942.

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
January 29, 1948

What Farmers Are Doing To Aid The War Food Program

MONTEZUMA, Ga., Jan. 28—Atlanta defense workers will have fresh English peas in the early spring, according to plans of 100 Negro farm families residing on FSA farmsteads in Macon county, near Montezuma. Each family is now preparing one-half acre of English peas, to be grown and forwarded to the Atlanta markets this spring.

Columbus, Ga., Enquirer-Sun
September 18, 1943

Troup's Negro Students Help Gather Crops In South Georgia

LAGRANGE, Ga., Sept. 16—(Special) — Students from the freshman class of the Depat street high school and the McGregor street school, two of LaGrange's colored schools, are aiding Troup county farmers in the war effort by assisting in the gathering of the cotton crop.

Farmers are providing ways for the students to ride trucks and busses to the farms, and teachers and principals are assisting in supervising and weighing the picked cotton. Williamson, colored county agent for Troup county was instrumental in engineering the project.

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
October 5, 1943

Athens Negro Pupils Set Cotton Picking Record

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

ATHENS, Ga., Oct. 4.—Various groups of local school children are helping Clarke county farmers pick cotton and harvest other crops needing attention, but it remained for a group of 114 Negro students to hang up the picking record.

This group, from Athens High and Industrial school, picked a total of 3,245 pounds of cotton in a day—or more than six bales.

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
September 30, 1943

Boys from Hoke Smith school, under the direction of Roy Martin, a faculty member, have added their efforts to other volunteers helping farmers by volunteering to pick cotton. They spent yesterday at a farm near Alpharetta. Also helping out in the farm labor crisis were 30 Negro boys from David T. Howard school, under the direction of William Banks, on a farm near Fairburn.

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
September 8, 1943

67 Negro Baptists Pick 4,097 Pounds Of Cotton in Day

ATLANTA, Sept. 3—(AP)—Sixty-one Negroes of the Bethlehem Baptist church and community center, picked 4,097 pounds of cotton Thursday on a Fayette county farm, Candler C. Miller, county agricultural agent, said today.

The Negroes were led to their pastor, the Rev. W. H. Jackson. The county agent said it was the "best record of all the volunteer pickers."

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
September 7, 1943

for them, and that they are going to do their utmost to save every crop in Worth County. . . . We want to thank the white and colored farmers for their complete co-operation in handling the labor. . . . When the final curtain falls on the harvesting season that is so important to the war effort, we can say, "A job well done."

What happened in Coffee County was similar. Under the leadership of three Negroes of Douglas, M. Brown, a blacksmith; W. A. Kimbrough, principal of a school; and D. E. Coney, an insurance agent, the "Colored Victory Volunteers" were organized and 235 went out daily for farm work last week. "They rendered outstanding service," the *Coffee County Progress* says, "and will continue their efforts as long as the emergency lasts."

There will be no race problem in the South where the leaders, white and colored, meet on a basis of mutual understanding, mutual respect, and mutual help. An economic emergency in Worth and Coffee Counties seems to be establishing the fact of mutual dependence in matters for the common good.

Des Moines, Iowa Bystander

WAR TEACHES WHITES HOW THEY DEPEND ON NEGROES

Newnan, Ga. (ANP)—White southerners under the [illegible] of war are learning more clearly than ever before how much they depend on colored folk to do all the dirty, backbreaking work, while they have relaxed under a shade tree sipping mint juleps.

This was brought home forcibly when a call was sent out by Coweta county farmers begging city folk to rush to the fields in an effort to save the bumper crop of cotton. Though all the stores were closed to permit workers to go to the fields, less than 150 of the white city folk showed up.

Booker T. Barber, one of two remaining Negro field hands on the 400-acre farm of John Meriweather near Newnan, skeptically watching some 20 city white folk attempting to pick cotton, shook his head and commented:

"White folk ain't gonna pick no cotton. They ain't used to doing anything that makes their back hurt. Truth is, I reckon it hurts their feelings more than it does their backs."

Cotton labor is not to be found for love or money in Coweta county. The traditional plentiful supply of Negro seasonal workers has disappeared, either to the army or to urban centers where concerns with war contracts are beggnig for workers and forgetting to stipulate what color. Meanwhile 249 farm fields lie burgeoning with ripe Stoneville 2-[illegible] cotton.

"If we have a big [illegible] moaned County Agent W. R. O'Den, "our farmers are sunk."

Sylvester colored citizens want the farmers to know they are 100 per cent

WHITE SOUTHERNERS LEARN IN WAR HOW MUCH THEY LEAN ON NEGROES

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.
SEP 17 1943

Call For Cotton Pickers To Save Crop, Brings Supply Of Colored Folk For Work Too Hard For Whites Of City

NEWNAN, Ga., Sept. 16—(ANP) White southerners under the exigencies of war are learning more clearly than ever before how much they depend on colored folk to do all the dirty work, backbreaking work while they have relaxed under a shade tree sipping mint juleps.

This was brought home forcibly when a call was sent out by Coweta county farmers begging city folk to rush to the fields in an effort to save the bumper crop of cotton. Though all the stores were closed to permit workers to go to the fields, less than 150 of the white city folk showed up.

Booker T. Barber, one of two remaining Negro field hands on the 400-acre farm of John Meriweather, near Newnan, skeptically watching some 20 city white folk attempting to pick cotton, shook his head and commented:

"White folk ain't gonna pick no cotton. They ain't used to doing anything that makes their back hurt. Truth is, I reckon it hurts their feelings more than it does their backs."

SEP 17 1943

Cotton labor is not to be found for love or money in Coweta county. The traditional plentiful supply of Negro seasonal workers has disappeared, either to the army or to urban centers where concerns with war contracts are beggnig for workers and forgetting to stipulate what color. Meanwhile 249 farm fields lie burgeoning with ripe Stoneville 2-[illegible] cotton.

"If we have a big [illegible] moaned County Agent W. R. O'Den, "our farmers are sunk."

SEP 17 1943

PLENTY OF COTTON

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia
AUG 4 1943

PICKERS IN COLQUITT

MOULTRIE, Ga. — (SNS) — Some 1,500 Moultrie Negroes, most of them women and children, are helping Colquitt County farmers pick their cotton crop, it was revealed Friday by County Agent F. N. Poole. His office has the names of more than 1,200 engaged in this work, as well as the names of their employers.

The cotton pickers were "recruited" by Hilliary Murphy, white, labor assistant in the county agent's office. Murphy said he had the active cooperation of the pastors of the Negro churches of Moultrie. The pickers are being paid $2 per 100 pounds on most farms and are exhibiting a fine spirit of cooperation. A lot of the women have husbands in the Army and though receiving allotment checks monthly are not disposed to "get rich" and loaf otherwise.

County Agent Poole said that he believes there were at last eight to ten thousand cotton pickers busy in the fields of Colquitt Thursday. All of th crop is open and a field has to be gone over just one time to finish the harvest. It is now certain the county's cotton crop will be saved. Peanut growers are urgently in need of labor, however. This type of work is much harder than cotton picking, Poole admitted.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia
AUG 7 1943

Moultrie Negroes Picking Cotton.

MOULTRIE, Ga., 7.—Scores of Moultrie Negroes, mostly women and children, are helping Colquitt County farmers pick one of the finest cotton crops they have ever produced. For the work they are being paid $1.50 per 100 pounds and they are transported to and from the fields.

The cotton is opening rapidly and ginning and warehouse circles here are as busy as they usually are in the latter part of August. The plants fruited to the top and there was practically no boll weevil damage this year. Field after field will produce a bale per acre, farm observers say.

Practically all of the tobacco crop has been cured and this released a large number of workers who are being used in the cotton fields. Most of the big farms have enough help of their own to gather their cotton and the smaller growers are, generally speaking, not finding the labor situation as harassing as they anticipated.

150 Soldiers To Harvest Crops In Sandersville

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia
AUG 19 1943

SANDERSVILLE, Ga. (SNS) —Some 150 soldiers from the Fourth Service comman will arrive in Sandersville this week to assist farmers in harvesting crops, according to County Agent S. G. Mercer.

The soldiers will be quartered in tents at the Washington County Fair grounds on Smith Street. A kitchen will be set up with breakfast and supper being served there, while the men will carry their lunch with them to their places of work. Approximately eight hours of work will be done each day in the fields, and farmers will pay the prevailing wage scale.

Citizens of the county are being mobilized to aid the farmers.

All colored men in town are being given identification badges by their employers in an effort by city authorities to make sure that everyone not otherwise employed enlists in farm work.

Thomas County Farmers Seek City Folks' Aid

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
AUG 27 1943

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

THOMASVILLE, Ga., Aug. 26. With 25,000 acres of peanuts and 7,000 acres of cotton planted this year to help in the war effort, Thomas county farmers are finding it necessary to call on town and city folks to help with the harvesting, Neil C. Boland, county agent, and Grady Knight, farm labor assistant for the Extension Service, said today.

County schools will operate on shorter hours daily to assist in the work, Boland pointed out, and he explained that small farmers are getting crops harvested by exchanging labor for the use of side delivery rakes to shake peanuts prior to stacking. A side delivery rake and tractor can do the work of several men and, according to the county agent, "if it were not for this machinery in the county it would be impossible to harvest all the 1943 peanut crop."

In some communities Negro leaders are helping with the recruiting of Negro workers. By following this method of local recruiting, transportation costs are cut down and also workers can be shifted from one farm to another with only a little delay when a crop is finished. This plan is working satisfactorily in Pavo, Boston, Meigs, Ochlochnee, and other towns, Boland said.

A total of approximately 400 city workers are going to Thomas county farms daily.

The county's sugar cane crop will be ready just before frost, Boland declared, and additional labor will be needed for this crop, too. But that time, however, the cotton and peanut crops will be practically completed, he said.

Negro Farmer Kills Ton of Meat on Farm

Oxford, N. C. Ledger

The adult classes in Agricultural Education in the Antioch Community are bringing forth wonderful results. December 21, 1943

Robert and Mary Hargrove, who have been regular members of the classes for five years, reached their maximum this year in pork production when they butchered one ton of meat.

Three hogs were killed, the largest one being a pure bred Berkshire boar, weighing 800 pounds. This pig was purchased by Mrs. Hargrove when but six weeks old, and won first place at the Agricultural Exhibit held at Mary Potter School in 1942.

The other two hogs weighed 700 pounds and 500 pounds respectively. Both Robert and his wife are very happy over their meat supply, and say they expect to do a little bit better next year.

The hogs killing was observed by Prof. R. A. Lewis, and a group of vocational agricultural students from Mary Potter School. Prof. Lewis is advisor to the adult classes in this community.

2-1943

Illinois

Townsend Lauds Negro Farmers In War Effort

Daily World

Atlanta, Georgia

Don't Fear Rationing, He Tells Hearers

JUL 15 1943

CHICAGO—(ANP)—M. Clifford Townsend, former governor of the state of Indiana but now serving as Food Production director of the U. S. Department of Agriculture paid tribute to the work of the Negro farmer Sunday when he spoke to an overflow crowd during the morning services at Pilgrim Baptist Church.

"One fourth of the southern farms are owned by Negroes," Townsend said, speaking of the number of farms and not the acreage. One half of the southern farm labor is Negro. They are doing a magnificant job.

"If Negroes farmers meet their goals this year," he continued, "They will produce enough eggs to serve 11 million soldiers, sailors and flyers an egg for breakfast every morning from now until next September.

"Don't fear rationing. There is plenty of food. Rationing is nothing more than equitable distribution. It is one way of insuring the winning of the war. It is one way of insuring the four freedoms here at home."

Gov. Townsend said that Food is not only being sent to England and Russia but to North Africa. He pointed out that during the first four months of the landing of our troops in North Africa we shipped 126,000 tons of food, clothing, medicine and their necessities to the native population of North Africa.

JUL 17 1943

2-1943

KENTUCKY

Nashville, Tenn. Banner

January 1, 1943

Negro Soldiers Aid Kentucky Farmers

(By Associated Press)

The swollen Ohio River had brought a state of emergency to Catlettsburg and Ashland today as the Army sent a battalion of Negro engineers from Fort Knox to Henderson to help gather crops threatened by flood waters in that area.

Mayors Henry Shanklin of Ashland and J. J. Pennington of Catlettsburg and Boyd County Judge E. K. Rose yesterday declared a state of emergency and delegated full authority to E. R. Gevedon, chairman of the county Red Cross disaster committee, to act in behalf of the public's welfare.

Twenty-five families had been moved from their homes at Catlettsburg to escape the rising river last night and Gevedon said another 125 to 150 families would have to be moved today. A similar number probably will have to be evacuated at Ashland, he added.

Gov. Keen Johnson said at Frankfort yesterday that the Negro engineers, about 150 of them, would be housed in an abandoned CCC camp near Henderson and would assist farmers in Henderson, Daviess and Union Counties in gathering their hemp and corn crops.

2-1943

Louisiana

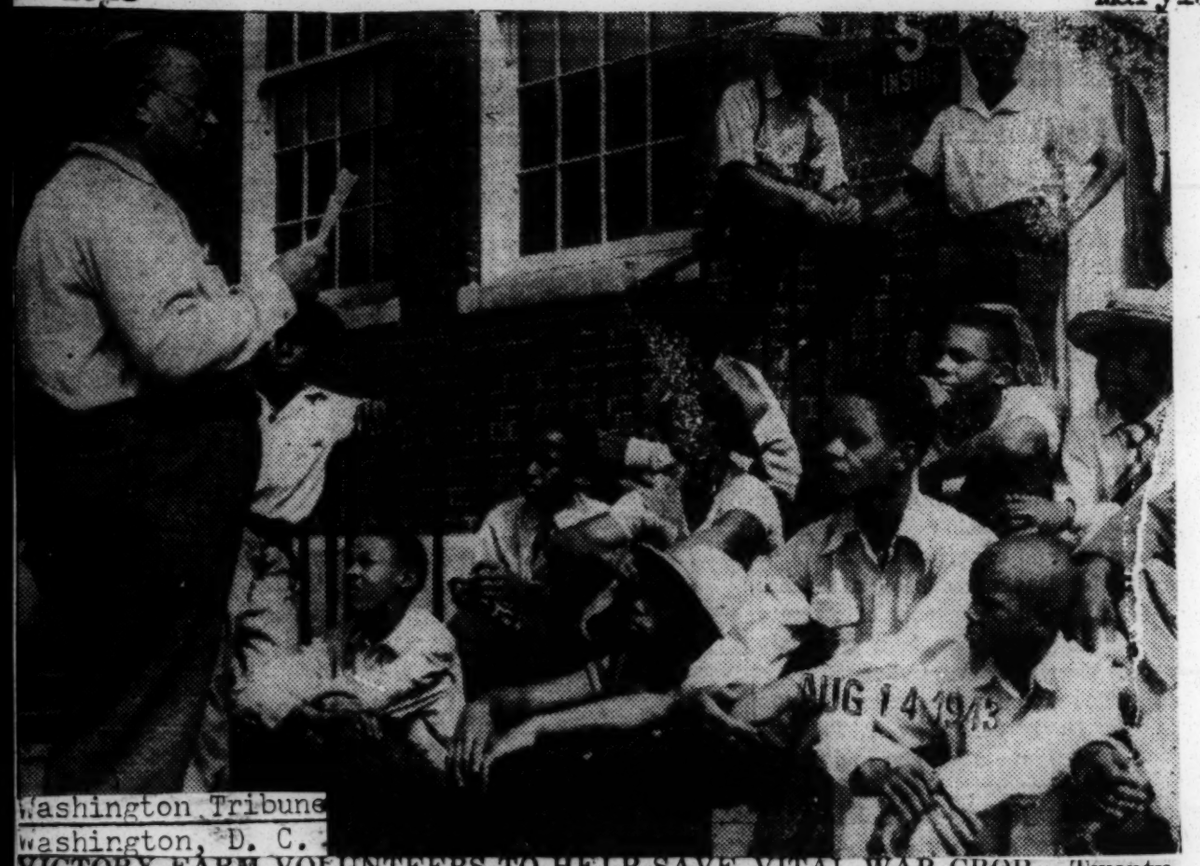
Colored People Called Upon to Help Save Crop

Franklin, La. St. Mary Banner
September 24, 1943

At a meeting of the colored ministers and leaders Saturday, Sept. 25, at 10 a. m., at the Methodist Church in Franklin, a movement will be initiated to prevail upon the colored people of this section to contribute their efforts toward assisting in harvesting the 1943 sugar cane crop by offering their services and putting in full time during the coming season.

The movement, endorsed by the Franklin Rotary Club, was initiated by Rev. Holly B. Harper, pastor of the Methodist Church, who, sensing the labor crisis and consequent predicament the sugarcane industry is confronted with due to scarcity of labor, volunteered to use his efforts toward assisting in ameliorating these conditions. Responding wholeheartedly, Rev. B. C. Baptiste, Baldwin, and Rev. W. H. Buckner, Franklin, colored ministers, issued a call for a meeting of the colored ministers and leaders to attend the meeting Saturday and adopt plans to carry on an effective campaign among the colored people to lend full cooperation to the movement.

Through these means it is hoped that all able colored people generally will be impressed with the necessity of working full time in the cane fields during the coming harvest season and thereby make their contribution to this vital war effort.



AUG 14 1943

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

VICTORY FARM VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SAVE VITAL WAR CROP.—Twenty-six Washington, D.C. high school boys enlested in the Victory Farm Volunteers last week and left by bus Sunday morning for Cambridge, Md., to help save a 15,000-acre tomato crop. Extension Service officials estimate that the 26 boys will harvest 12 tons of tomatoes daily. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that 150,000 youths have poined the VFV to help relieve the farm labor shortage. At extreme left, Roscoe G. Robinson, teacher at Phelps Vocational School, who will supervise the camp where the boys will be housed, is giving the youths last minute instructions before they board the bus; second from left, the Porter twins, Chester and Alfred, check up to see that the breakfast cereal is there; third from left, the youngsters load the food into the bus; at extreme right, the Victory Farm Volunteers line-up to board the bus with bags, food, and cooking utensils.—USDA Photos by Ackerman.

AUG 14 1943

Charlotte, N. C., Observer
September 29, 1943

NEGRO STUDENTS HELP GATHER CROP OF COTTON

GASTONIA, Sept. 28—For the past several days, Lincoln academy, widely known Negro institution in the western end of Gaston county, has been operating on a short-day schedule in order to allow the students, both local and boarding pupils, to assist the farmers in that section to harvest their cotton crop. Teachers in the school also volunteered and have been doing their part of the picking. Already a good many bales have been picked in this manner.

Negro Farmers Meet Here Today

Reidsville [illegible] Review

Farmers in the Garret Grove community were scheduled to meet today at 3 p. m. at the school house for the purpose of discussing the feed situation and procedure to take in meeting the crisis.

According to R. L. Hannon, local agent, we are entering the new feeding season with $300,000,000 bushels less corn and 416,000,000 bushels less wheat, oats, barley and rye than last year, a total decrease of 716,000,000 bushels with less hay and no more protein concentrates. "The farmers must challenge this grave situation and begin now with an increased production of small grains, grazing crops, etc., and careful culling of all livestock," stated the agent.

The new program outlined by the War Food Administration toward aiding sellers of whole milk, butterfats and butter producers will also be discussed. October 28, 1943

No doubt farmers will discuss the tobacco situation along with the War Bond program.

Next week this type of farmer's conference will get underway in the western section of the county, including Madison and Stoneville. areas.

Abbeville, S. C. Press and Banner
January 21, 1943

Wartime Farming To Produce More Food

Clemson.—"Farm People in South Carolina, as elsewhere, worked harder in 1942 than in many years, influenced by as sound patriotism as will be found among any group of people," D. W. Watkins, director of the Extension Service said here today discussing wartime farming in South Carolina.

"In South Carolina, we have been reducing our cotton acreage for 10 years, and increasing food, feed, and livestock production," Director Watkins continued.

"We are a typical part of the Southeast in which the number of hogs has increased by 45 percent, the amount of milk produced by 29 per cent, and the number of cattle by 31 percent.

"The number of white farm owners has increased and the number of acres harvested per farm has increased somewhat. The number of Negro tenants has decreased more than the number of white tenants.

"These trends are in line with the wartime pressure on the farmer to produce more food.

"In 1943, farmers are being called on to produce more foodstuffs, starting with a thoroughly adequate supply for all the people living on the farm and then producing all of the commercial foodstuffs, especially of the less bulky kind, of which they are capable and for which there are open markets. Farm people who depend on bought supplies of canned goods and meat from local stores will perhaps find themselves in a tight spot during 1943.

"The federal government has already asked for less short staple cotton and more long staple cotton, more poultry and eggs, more hogs, more beef cattle, and this means more hay, small grain, forage, and improved pastures. These are the wartime orders of the day for South Carolina farm people in 1943."

Negro Sub-Committee Adopts Resolutions

St. George, S. C., Eagle-Record
July 22, 1943

The Negro Sub-Committee on Farm Labor for Upper Dorchester County met at the Williams Memorial High School, St. George, on Saturday, July 16, to discuss the part that their people can play in relieving the present labor shortage. This sub-committee is the result of a meeting of negro pastors and laymen some time ago, at which time general plans were discussed.

At the meeting of the sub-committee the following suggestions were made in the form of resolutions:

"Whereas, because of the shortage of farm labor due to the National Emergency, we are calling upon every citizen of Dorchester county to do his part in helping to win the war. Therefore be it resolved:

1. That each minister preach a special sermon concerning the labor situation;

2. That schools be permitted to take in early and dismiss at 12 o'clock, thus permitting a half day's work for all school children;

3. That trucks and cars meet the students at the school houses at 12:30 o'clock to take them to the farms;

4. That we cooperate in exchanging labor as far as possible;

5. That cash prizes be offered to the students picking the most cotton, and a similar prize be offered to adults;

6. That a fair wage be paid.

7. That copies of these resolutions be sent to all negro ministers of Upper Dorchester County and a copy be sent to the Dorchester Eagle-Record."

This resolution is the work of the committee comprised of T. H. Pinckney, chairman, R. R. Gordon, secretary, and M. J. Robinson, L. R. Brown, Rev. H. D. Brown, and Rev. R. L. Lawrence. They urge every pastor to set aside his next service for a study of this program. This group is working under a larger group composed of each pastor and one layman from each church in the upper part of the county.

2-1943

South Carolina

Charleston, S. C., News-Courier
September 18, 1943

Negro Farm Workers To Enlist Others

Florence, Sept. 17.—Special: At a rally of negro members of the U. S. crop corps, meeting in the auditorium of Wilson high school on Monday night, 35 members, who have worked in the fields continuously to harvest cotton and other crops, pledged themselves to enlist other members of their race to do volunteer farm work. The meeting was a small but enthusiastic gathering.

Easley, S. C. Progress
September 23, 1943

Pickens Schools Aid County Farmers With Cotton Picking

Pickens high school and grammar school (both white and colored) will be closed through October 2, through the cooperation of the trustees and superintendent to assist farmers in picking cotton.

Plans have been made whereby farmers may register, if they want help, with the county agents and County Farm Labor Assistant E. D. Allgood in the Agricultural building in Pickens.

Children will assemble in front of the Courthouse each morning and will go out under the supervision of teachers or supervisors.

Farmers securing this help will be required to furnish transportation to and from the farms. If a farmer has no means of transportation and wants help arrangements may be made to provide transportation for him at a small cost. The usual, or prevailing cost for picking cotton, will be paid.

Children will be allocated to the farmers according to the need. This will be directed by the leadership of G. E. Welborn, school superintendent, and the county agents' office.

Each child will furnish his picking sack, and these can be made from feed, and fertilizer sacks.

Colored children will assemble in front of the colored school and will be under the supervision of M. H. Sullivan. Farmers wishing colored help may register wth M. H. Sullivan, or the county agents' office.

York, S. C., Yorkville Enquirer
October 7, 1943

COLORED SCHOOL CHILDREN HELP WITH COTTON PICKING

Colored children from the Jefferson School have been doing their part in the war effort this week by helping pick cotton.

Mr. C. L. Boyd of the York-Chester Highway reports that the students did a fine job for him on Monday and Tuesday. They picked 4,300 pounds which is about three bales. Mr. Boyd is very grateful for their help since it would have been impossible for him to get his cotton out otherwise.

The students picked for Mr. Dave Cameron one day last week.

Shelbyville, Tenn. Times
October 28, 1943

SCHOOL LABOR SUGGESTED DURING RATION HOLIDAYS

All schools operated by the Bedford County Board of Education will observe holidays three days on October 27, 28, and 29 while teachers conduct the rationing signup for Ration Book No. 4.

Farmers having cotton to pick, not otherwise arranged for by that time, might request groups of high school students, white or Negro, to help on those days. It is suggested that Prof. Mills of Shelbyville High School or Prof. Sidney Harris of the Bedford County Negro Training School be contacted by any farmer needing such help.

Trucks and picking sacks would have to be furnished these youthful pickers, and while they would not be expert pickers, there is no reason why the amount picked would not be a great help. Payment should be on the poundage basis, and farm owners should be present to show these youthful pickers the proper way to pick cotton and to otherwise encourage them.

COLORED FARMER WORKS LARGE FARM TO BACK HIS SON

Jackson, Tenn. Sun

George Williamson, colored farmer of the Denmark neighborhood, is planning to farm more intensively the 900 acres he owns or leases during the 1944 season, because he now has a personal stake in the war—his son, Roosevelt L. Williamson, is now a private in the army.

Williamson and his wife received a letter from their son at Gulfport Field, Miss., telling some of his experiences during the eight weeks of his service. He is especially pleased with his ability to send mail free.

Williamson inherited some land and has bought more to bring his present holdings to 500 acres. He leases an additional 400 acres to give him 900 acres for cultivation. In this he is assisted by his wife and eight of their ten children.

Using horses and mules, he and his tenants grew 80 bales of cotton this past season in addition to other crops. This next year he plans increased production in the critical crops.

December 30, 1943

"It is going to be hard to run my farm without this soldier boy," Williamson said, "but I feel that I have to do all I can at home, just as I expect him to do all he can in the army, to win the war."

2-1943

Texas

Texan Spreads Doctrine Of Farm Aid To War Effort

Daily World

SEP 6 1943

Atlanta, Georgia

By WILLIAM A. FOWLKES

The Rev. H. E. Allen, general supervisor of the Eastern Farmers' Producing Association, Longview, Texas, was in Atlanta Saturday in the midst of a tour of Southern states where he is spreading the doctrine that Negro farmers can help win the war by producing foodstuffs and earning money for themselves.

The Texan, a modest mannered, intelligent farmer, attracted the government and business interests to his association, after farmers of the project sold between $12,000 and $15,000 worth of tomatoes alone this season.

One farmer, according to Rev. Mr. Allen, sold some $300 worth of tomatoes from one acre. Which, of course, ain't hay!

ORGANIZED IN DECEMBER

Rev. Mr. Allen called together the colored farmers of Gregg and Rust Counties in East Texas in December, 1942, and the project was set up. Several hundreds of acres of tomatoes were planted. Rev. Allen financed and supervised the hotbeds and the planting. When the crop came in, the sales, by carload lots, were phenomenal, especially since wartime prices were in effct. The farmers, many of whom already are wealthy from oil wells on their land, promised to plant many more acres next year and the association hopes to build a ... shipping shed in time for the next harvest.

At a festival held by the Association in Easton, Texas on July 5, James Stevens, son of Robert Stevens, who realized $780 from his crop, was crowned "tomato king," while Miss Elvina Stevens, daughter of George Stevens, who realized $675 from his crop, was crowned "tomato queen." Barbecue, drinks and dinner were served free on the occasion, while main speakers were Professors A. Williams, of Greenshaw, C. A. ... of Longview; Rev. ... Reed, of Freedonia, and Rev. L. Cornelius, of Longview.

OFFICERS LISTED

Officers of the Texas association include: Rev. J. S. McDaniel, president; John Godfrey, secretary; M. ... Kennedy, treasurer; Rev. Allen, general supervisor; Robert Hodge, George Stevens and Harvey Burton, field workers.

Rev. Allen hopes to visit colleges and speak to audiences in most of the states of the South and many of the North before returning to his home. He hopes to inspire Negroes to get together and form co-operative associations for growing foodstuffs to win the war and realize some profits for their labors, just as he and his fellow workers have done in Texas.